

Enclosure (13)

AUXILIARY COVID-19 GUIDANCE



Version 5

January 20, 2023

**The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
(CG-BSX)**

AUXILIARY COVID-19 GUIDANCE

A. General Information/Guidance

1. These guidance and policy updates are intended to aid the District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Coast Guard units, and Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) on how to use Coast Guard Auxiliarists in the safest way possible while COVID-19 transmission rate continues to be sporadic throughout the year. As the spread of COVID-19 varies in every area, region, state, city, town, etc., DIRAUXs and OIAs may deviate from this guide as they see fit for their cognizant areas of responsibility (AOR). DIRAUXs and OIAs should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidance and recommendations applicable to their AOR's current COVID-19 Community Level. Please review the following regarding CDC COVID-19 Community Levels: [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)
2. This guidance provides Auxiliarists a safe way to continue to move forward and combines and supersedes the following ALAUXs: ALAUX 003/20 (Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Auxiliary Awareness); ALAUX 027/20 (Temporary Suspension of Online Proctor Requirement for AUXOP Specialty Course Exams); and ALAUX 011/20 (Webinar Delivery of the TCT Refresher - COVID-19).
3. DIRAUX offices, Coast Guard units, and OIAs are continually assessing operational risks posed by COVID-19 and developing mitigation strategies in advance of mission performance. They remain the best sources for guidance regarding Auxiliary assignments to duty (ATD) within their AORs. All Auxiliarists shall strictly adhere to Coast Guard policy and follow State and local policy if more restrictive. For example, if CG policy allows for optional indoor mask wear for vaccinated and unvaccinated Auxiliarists in a geographic area identified as Community Level (Medium) but a local township in that area still requires indoor mask wear for all, then Auxiliarists shall adhere to that township's policy while ATD.
4. DIRAUX offices, units, and OIAs must honor and respect an Auxiliarist's request to not perform an assignment to duty due to the Auxiliarist's concerns about COVID-19 exposure.
5. Auxiliarists should remain mindful that Commanding Officers and Officers-in-Charge of Coast Guard installations are empowered to deny entry to any personnel, including Auxiliarists, to ensure the safety and security of the installation.
6. All Auxiliarists are expected to view the CDC COVID-19 page at [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#) for further information on transmission, prevention, symptoms and emergency warning signs, people at higher risk for severe illness, exposure risk, preventing infection, etc. The CDC recommends building a personal COVID-19 plan so all the information that may be needed is on hand if sick with COVID-19. The plan can be downloaded, edited, and saved so it can be shared with family, friends, and healthcare providers, if needed. The plan can be found at [COVID-19 Personal Plan \(cdc.gov\)](#).

7. Whether suspecting that exposure to COVID-19 occurred during a Coast Guard assignment to duty or not, Auxiliarists are encouraged to seek medical attention from their personal health providers and follow their health provider's guidance. Suspected COVID-19 exposure pursuant to assignment to duty shall be processed as other Auxiliary injury claims in accordance with provisions of the Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series).

8. All Auxiliarists (vaccinated or unvaccinated) must follow CDC guidelines if exposed to COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19, prior to requesting ATD: [Your Health | COVID-19 | CDC](#); [What to Do If You Were Exposed to COVID-19 | CDC](#); [If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone | CDC](#); and [Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19 | CDC](#)

9. Mask Wear: In accordance with ALCOAST 120/22, COVID-19: Safer Federal Workforce, Task Force COVID-19 Workplace Safety Guidance – Update 1, dated 01 Apr 2022, DIRAUXs and other Coast Guard OIAs shall use the CDC's Community Levels guidance to establish and maintain Auxiliary policy for general mask wearing in their respective geographic AORs. Unless otherwise noted in the guidance, DIRAUXs and Coast Guard OIAs must validate for their servicing Auxiliarists that they are not required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors regardless of vaccination status in their respective geographic areas of responsibility. If an Auxiliarist has any question about the mask wear requirement for any geographic area, they shall obtain clarification of such from the DIRAUX or appropriate OIA. In addition, mask wear shall be considered when personnel are arriving from multiple parts of the country, which may have differing community levels of transmission, including high levels, to reduce the risk of potential spread of COVID-19 among individuals who may have different levels of risk of COVID-19 exposure. All Auxiliarists shall continue to comply with Coast Guard policy regarding areas where masks shall be worn, including health care settings regardless of transmission levels. Further, Auxiliarists should follow applicable local, state, and federal mask requirements during non-Coast Guard activities. Auxiliarists may choose to wear a mask at any time. CDC guidance provides various exceptions, including but not limited to eating, water activities, and high intensity activities. Basic Community Level information and mask wear guidelines follow:

- a. CDC COVID-19 Community Level of High: All Auxiliarists shall wear a high-quality mask. See CDC's page on types of masks and respirators for further information: [Masks and Respirators \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- b. CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of Medium and Low: Masks are optional for all Auxiliarists unless otherwise directed by DIRAUX or the cognizant Coast Guard OIA.
- c. CDC requirements for mask fit, form, and function are available at: [Use Masks to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 \(cdc.gov\)](#);
- d. CDC COVID-19 Community Levels can be found at: [Your Health | COVID-19 | CDC](#)
- e. CDC COVID-19 Community Level Data Tracker site: [CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View](#)

B. Authorizations

1. Auxiliarists are authorized to perform Auxiliary activities pursuant to assignments to duty from one of the following OIAs:

- a. The Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX, CG-BSX).
- b. The Headquarters program manager for a Headquarters unit or their designee (e.g., the Director of Health, Safety, and Work-Life (CG-11) or the Chaplain of the Coast Guard (CG-00A)).
- c. The Area Commander or their designee (e.g., Area Chief of External Affairs (CG-092)).
- d. The District Commander or their designee (e.g., Chief of Prevention (dp), Director of Auxiliary (dpa), District Chaplain (dch), Sector Commander, unit Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge). Note: This does not preclude Auxiliary elected and appointed staff officers from assigning other Auxiliarists to duty in accordance with provisions of the Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST 16790.1 (series). The DIRAUX should be consulted in advance of any such assignment if it entails travel outside the geographic area of responsibility (AOR) for an Auxiliarist's region, interaction to any degree with the public, or as otherwise specified by the DIRAUX.

2. In determining ATD authorization, all due consideration must be given to mission need and risk that may stem from fundamental Auxiliary demographics in determining whether an assignment to duty is warranted. This still includes whether an Auxiliarist has been fully vaccinated or not. Consideration must also be given to an increase in boating accidents and fatalities stemming from the attractiveness and proliferation of recreational boating during the COVID-19 environment. All OIAs are therefore strongly encouraged to make thorough, accurate, and updated assessments of their operating environments (including incorporation of state/local guidance), fully leveraging the many best practices and lessons learned that have been compiled to mitigate COVID-19 risk. They should also identify and act upon opportunities for Auxiliarists to re-engage with boaters across the Auxiliary's authorized recreational boating safety mission activities in order to help curtail these alarming trends.

3. Coast Guard commands, DIRAUXs, OIAs, lead Auxiliarists (coxswains, pilots, etc.), Auxiliary elected officers, and program managers (e.g., flotilla and division staff officers) are authorized to ask their Auxiliary crew members and program participants if they are fully vaccinated or not to determine risk mitigation and to assist in determining ATD, and Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE)/social distancing requirements. In addition, Coast Guard commands, DIRAUXs, OIAs, and lead Auxiliarists may terminate any ATD of an Auxiliarist if they do not disclose their vaccination status. They may also require their Auxiliary crews to take precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by requiring mask, social distancing, etc. Any issues or concerns are to be immediately referred to the OIA for resolution.

C. Vaccination Status and Attestation

1. Vaccination

- a. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after the last required dose of a FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, a COVID-19 vaccine administered under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization, or a COVID-19 vaccine on the World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing. Auxiliarists who do not meet these criteria are NOT considered fully vaccinated. Those with previous COVID-19 infection(s) or antibody test results are also not considered fully vaccinated on that basis for the purposes of this guidance.
- b. The Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX) has suspended the temporary restriction that requires all Auxiliarists to be fully vaccinated prior to volunteering for an ATD. All Auxiliarists may request ATD in any COVID-19 Community Level without the need to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test unless otherwise required by section F. of this guidance.
- c. Vaccination against COVID-19, including booster shots, is strongly recommended for all Auxiliarists.
- d. Auxiliary COVID-19 High Risk Assessment Form (ANSC-7101): It is important for the Coast Guard to be aware of the extent of vaccination across the Auxiliary element of its workforce. To achieve such awareness, it is requested that Auxiliarists fill out the ANSC-7101 to ensure vaccination status is captured in AUXDATA II. (DIRAUX office shall keep a copy of this form in their members' files and shall not scan a copy into AUXDATA II). Once filled out and submitted to the cognizant DIRAUX office, this form should not be submitted again unless its information has changed (For example: If this updated form was submitted with one of the "No" boxes checked then a few months later it changes to "Yes", then a new form must be submitted). Providing information that is not accurate or not true may result in disciplinary action. The form can be found on the Auxiliary forms warehouse site at: [USCGAUX: PDF Forms for Auxiliary Staff](#). Although not required to be submitted, Auxiliarists are reminded that if circumstances change enough to warrant required ANSC-7101 submission, then their eligibility for ATD may be significantly limited.
- e. Vaccinated Auxiliarists that express concern about performing in-person ATDs with unvaccinated Auxiliarists should bring their concern to the attention of the OIA. If the OIA is an Auxiliarist, then they shall also notify the DIRAUX. If the issue cannot be resolved then the OIA (in consultation with the DIRAUX if applicable) may terminate the ATD for all participants (e.g., an unresolved concern among an Auxiliary boat crew may result in termination of their patrol).

2. Attestation

- a. Auxiliarists entering any federal building, in CDC COVID-19 Community Level of High, may be requested to attest to their vaccination status prior to entering a federal building/facility or in-person participation in a Coast Guard or other federal government hosted meeting, indoor event, or conference away from a Coast Guard building. The

overarching intent of attestation is to reduce risk to the workforce and official activities performed indoors.

- b. As a result, all Auxiliarists (including fully vaccinated) entering any federal building in CDC COVID-19 Community Level of High should be prepared to attest to their vaccination status by providing proof of vaccination. Auxiliarists who are not fully vaccinated or decline to answer may need to provide proof of negative COVID-19 test completed within 72 hours (three (3) days) of their visit to a federal building/facility or in-person participation in a Coast Guard or other federal government hosted meeting, indoor event, or conference away from a Coast Guard building, when ATD and in areas of High CDC COVID-19 Community Levels. All Auxiliarists are also required to adhere to all safety measures required for individuals. (Note: Test results can be provided on a printed document or a photo and can be from any viral tests authorized by the FDA to detect COVID-19 infection. Auxiliarists do not need to get tested if they recovered from COVID-19 in the previous 90 days prior to entering a federal facility.)
- c. This attestation excludes outdoor spaces on CG facilities. This attestation does not apply if an Auxiliarist is acting in the capacity as a visitor or customer and entering a Coast Guard building to obtain a public service or benefit, for example Regional Exam Centers, a Coast Guard Exchange, identification card issuance locations, and MWR locations. Auxiliarists must otherwise adhere to paragraph A.3. of this guidance.

D. Coast Guard Operations and Auxiliary Activities

1. All Auxiliary activities are authorized to be performed if the cognizant DIRAUX office provides regional guidance, the Auxiliary activities conform to the risk-vs-gain assessments of the OIA, and the activities are determined by the OIA to fully meet their mission need criteria. In cases in which an OIA is not geographically located with the Auxiliarist, (e.g., CG-11 serving as OIA for Auxiliary Health Services (AUXHS) participants) then it is incumbent upon that OIA to ensure awareness of the Auxiliarist's region and reconcile any concerns with the cognizant region. The principal point-of-contact for such awareness and reconciliation is the DIRAUX (dpa).
2. Coast Guard OIAs should follow the guidelines set forth in The Agile Workforce Guide (enclosure (14) of the PLANORD) when Auxiliarists will be working with each other or other Coast Guard personnel. Order Issuing Authorities should also follow the Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Disease Risk Assessment (enclosure (1) of the PLANORD) when Auxiliarists will be working or interacting with the public. For recreational boating safety (RBS) specific missions, OIAs and Auxiliarists should follow the Auxiliary RBS Specific Risk Assessment (enclosure (1) of this guidance).
3. All risk-vs-gain assessments by OIAs for Auxiliary ATDs must apply PLANORD factors and control band criteria (enclosure (1) of the PLANORD) along with the considerations identified in paragraph B.2. above.
4. For operational ordered patrol missions, OIAs must work with their Auxiliary Sector Coordinators (ASC), Auxiliary Air Coordinators (AAC), and Auxiliary Unit Liaisons (AUXLO) to conduct operational planning, taking into account the COVID-19 risk factors, OIA mission needs, and training/proficiency needs of the Auxiliary. Once these operational planning discussions have

taken place, only then should patrol requests be submitted to the OIA in accordance with OIA unit policy and procedures. Patrol requests should be submitted well in advance of the patrol date (7-14 days) to allow time for thorough risk assessment to evaluate any COVID-19 risk considerations or changes in mission needs. It is imperative that OIAs and Auxiliarists apply proper risk management principles prior to, planning, requesting, or undertaking any ATD where risk of exposure to COVID-19 is possible. OIAs and Auxiliarists must also be aware of any mission restrictions or prohibitions established by the DIRAUX.

5. All OIAs should give special consideration of age, particularly for Auxiliarists 65 years of age and older, and COVID-19 high-risk factors in determining the propriety of any Auxiliary ATD. OIAs may request a copy of the updated Auxiliary COVID-19 High Risk Assessment Form (ANSC-7101) from their Auxiliarists or the DIRAUX office at any time to help determine ATD. See paragraph C.1.g for more information on the Auxiliary COVID-19 High Risk Assessment Form (ANSC-7101).

6. All OIAs must give special consideration to the proper outfitting of Auxiliarists with PPE for an ATD per enclosure (1) of the PLANORD. Facial masks commonly used by members of the public are acceptable PPE when Auxiliarists are assigned to duty unless otherwise specified by the OIA. If the OIA or the Auxiliarist cannot ensure that requisite PPE for the ATD is ready, available, and will be properly used, then the ATD must not be performed. (Note: The CHDIRAUX will not provide funding for PPE).

7. Understanding that many Auxiliary ATDs often have an Auxiliarist who effectively serves as the OIA instead of a distinct Coast Guard OIA (e.g., conducting staff officer duties, meetings, training, vessel safety checks, public education classes, marine dealer visits, public outreach events), the cognizant DIRAUX, through the Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM), will serve as the Coast Guard OIA for the purpose of determining whether or not such activities proceed when COVID-19 considerations exist, unless authorized in accordance with paragraph B.1.d. of this guidance. The COLM will be the only personnel authorized to contact the DIRAUX office; individual members must not contact the DIRAUX office.

8. Units and OIAs must ensure that Auxiliarists who are required to wear respirators in accordance with Sect 3.1.4. of the PLANORD are entered into the unit's respiratory protection program; medically cleared and physically fit to wear the respirators; fit-tested; and properly trained to use and maintain the respirators. Per enclosure 3 to COVID-19 FRAGO v5, and due to the increased availability of N95 respirators, it is recommended to use a new mask every time, but they can be re-used up to five (5) times provided they are not damaged or soiled. Voluntary respirator use must be in accordance with the Safety and Environmental Health Manual, COMDTINST 5100.47 (series).

- a. Auxiliarists (all crewmembers) performing ordered patrol missions for Coast Guard commands must follow the same PLANORD protocols for those missions including PPE outfitting and decontamination procedures as may be necessary. Such Auxiliarists must fulfill the following training requirements which are available through the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS: <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>):
 - i. Blood Borne Pathogens Training (Course #100293). Acceptable versions of this course are available in the COVID portfolio of the Auxiliary course catalog in the AUXLMS (<https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>) as well as through the Auxiliary Online Classroom

(<http://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/course/view.php?id=205>). An OIA designated unit-level version of the course is also acceptable. Until a link to record this course completion in AUXDATA II is established, Auxiliarists should retain a copy of their course completion (electronic acceptable) to provide an OIA as necessary.

- ii. Currency in Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) requirements is otherwise sufficient for Auxiliarists to be assigned to duty and engage in authorized activities outside their homes.

9. Auxiliarists engaged in AUXHS must know the clinical manifestations of COVID-19 and be familiar with applicable guidance on MEDEVAC for High-Risk Infectious Disease.

10. Public Education Classes: In areas of High CDC COVID-19 Community Levels, class sizes must be limited by the size and type of room the class will be in and take into account CDC minimum social distancing recommendations and follow CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels guidance per the website: [COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC](#) for all levels. In addition, the classroom must have proper ventilation, frequent breaks must be taken, and all interaction between all persons in the classroom must be conducted at minimum social distances. The number of Auxiliary personnel physically present for the purpose of instructing or supporting the conduct of the class must be minimized, and there should be no more than one instructor teaching the class at any given time. Personal protective equipment should be utilized in accordance with enclosure (1) of this guidance.

E. Training

1. Guidance regarding Auxiliary C-schools will continue to be issued through CG-BSX Policy Letter 21-01 and revised by ALAUX 046-22, Resumption of In-Person Auxiliary C-Schools, which can be found at the following: [2022 ALAUX \(uscgaux.info\)](#).

2. Currency Maintenance can be found in ALAUX 048/22, Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Annual Currency Maintenance Requirement Tracking for Crewmember, Coxswain, PWC Operator, and Nighttime Certification, at [2022 ALAUX \(uscgaux.info\)](#). Any questions should be directed to the servicing DIRAUX and OTO.

3. AUXOP Specialty Course Exams.

- a. Sections 8.C.2.(b) and (d) of the Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series) require all Operational Auxiliarist (AUXOP) specialty course exams to be proctored and have a minimum passing score of 75%.
- b. In-person AUXOP exam proctoring may continue.
- c. The following AUXOP specialty course exams may be taken online: Auxiliary Navigation (AUXNAV-A / also listed as AUXACN), Auxiliary Weather (AUXWEA), Auxiliary Patrols (AUXPAT), Auxiliary Seamanship (AUXSEA), and Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOM).

- d. If taken online, these AUXOP specialty course exams are authorized to be taken open-book and must still to be taken through the Auxiliary National Testing Center (NTC: <http://ntc.cgaux.org/>). Taken this way, they now require a passing score of 90% and must be completed within a 120-minute time limit. Once the online exam is started, it can only stop upon exam completion or once 120 minutes have passed. It cannot be temporarily stopped nor logged out. For these reasons, students should therefore ensure they are fully prepared and ready to take these online exams prior to starting them.
 - e. The Auxiliary Search Coordination and Execution (AUXSC&E) specialty course and the NavRules 90 exams must be proctored
 - f. AUXOP specialty course exam proctor and passing score policies are determined by the CHDIRAUX.
4. TCT Refresher.
- a. In-person or webinar delivery of the TCT Refresher course are both authorized.
 - b. Webinar delivery of the TCT Refresher course specified in [Risk Management \(RM\), COMDTINST 3500.3 \(series\)](#) and CG-BSX Policy Letter 19-01 - Risk Management Training Requirements for the Coast Guard Auxiliary remains authorized. All updated training materials have been posted to the Auxiliary On-Line Classroom at <http://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/> in the TCT Refresher Resources folder. Updated training materials include new slide presentations that include other Auxiliary mishaps and a Webinar Facilitator Resource Guide. Additional notes have been added to the presentation slides to assist facilitators with webinar training discussions. Listed below are the specific guidelines to ensure that the TCT Refresher learning objectives are met:
 - i. Webinar Platform. Because there are a variety of webinar platforms used by the Auxiliary, districts and units are authorized to use any webinar platform that will allow the facilitator to present the training presentations for viewing by the students and permit facilitator/student interaction in real-time.
 - ii. Webinar Facilitator Selection. The DIRAUX or OTO may select an Auxiliarist to oversee the selection of webinar facilitators. Webinar facilitators must be approved by the DIRAUX, OTO, or a designee, must be current in all TCT facilitator certification requirements listed in CG-BSX Policy Letter 19-01 - Risk Management Training Requirements for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and must be proficient in webinar presentations.
 - iii. Webinar Training Session Guidelines. In order to ensure course objectives are met, the following guidelines must be followed to ensure successful course completion:
 - a) Based on webinar training feedback, class size should be limited to 4-12 students. DIRAUX/OTO may authorize larger classes if necessary. Facilitators must ensure all attendees participate in the discussions.
 - b) All attendees must be able to view the presentations and participate in discussions in real-time. Just calling into a session is not sufficient to meet the training objectives.

- c) The course may be split into two sessions, the first covering the human factors of risk management and the second covering mission planning, risk management, and mishap analysis. If the course is split into two sessions, attendees must complete both sessions in their entirety to receive credit for the course.
 - d) Webinar facilitators must review the Facilitator Resource Guide and take all steps to prepare for the course and provide advance notification and meeting instructions to students prior to the class.
 - e) More than one facilitator can be utilized to deliver the course. Using one facilitator to deliver content while another monitors discussions or comments is a good tactic. If using more than one facilitator, both must be present for the entire session in order to get credit for teaching the course.
 - f) Facilitators should invite DIRAUX/OTOs and/or other facilitators to monitor training sessions in order to solicit feedback on the delivery of the course and apply lessons learned to improve course delivery.
- c. It is imperative that facilitators continue to ensure the principles of risk management are well understood and that attendees can apply those principles to reduce and/or mitigate risk. We must continue to develop our proficiency in risk management and instill in all members the idea of building a Culture of Safety.

F. Meetings and Conferences (Gatherings)

1. All official Auxiliary engagement activities that entail attending other-than-Coast Guard or other-than-Auxiliary conferences, conventions, or other large gatherings are authorized in accordance with CDC guidelines, Coast Guard policy, and Auxiliarists shall follow State and local policy if more restrictive.
2. All Auxiliary gatherings are authorized to be planned and executed in any CDC Community Level without need for further Coast Guard or DHS clearance or waiver. This is regardless of their duration, type of gathering, number of participants, or vaccination status. In areas of Medium or High CDC Community Levels, all in-person attendees may be asked to provide information about COVID-19 vaccination status. In addition, all in-person attendees who are not fully vaccinated or decline to answer vaccination status may be asked to provide proof of negative COVID-19 test completed within 72 hours (three (3) days) of the event start date. (Note: Test results can be provided on a printed document or a photo and can be from any viral tests authorized by the FDA to detect COVID-19 infection. Auxiliarists do not need to get tested if they recovered from COVID-19 in the previous 90 days prior to the start of an event.). Failure to provide a negative test result if requested may result in dismissal from the event and potential disciplinary action. In addition, all Auxiliarists must adhere to paragraph A.3. of this guidance.
3. Auxiliary leaders and DIRAUXs are encouraged to assess which gatherings can be adapted to wholly remote or virtual means, or a hybrid of such with the allowance for partial in-person presence, using approved video or audio platforms.
4. If any gathering can be conducted in person, wholly or in part, then The Agile Workforce Guide (enclosure (14) of the PLANORD) should be used by the DIRAUX office to determine if an Auxiliary unit meeting is needed and meets the risk-vs-gain criteria. If The Agile Workforce

Guide and the General Assessment of Risk (GAR) 2.0 (GAR 2.0: [PEACE Job Aid.pdf \(cgaux.org\)](#)) in [Risk Management \(RM\), COMDTINST 3500.3 \(series\)](#)) determines that an Auxiliary unit meeting is permitted by policy, then the meeting number must not exceed any currently defined state/local maximum (e.g., if a current state maximum for any meeting is 10 people and the Auxiliary unit meeting is permitted based on GAR 2.0, then the Auxiliary unit meeting in-person maximum shall not exceed 10 members).

5. A COVID-19 mitigation plan or COVID-19 protocols, including social distancing and PPE plans, for meetings held pursuant to this guidance must be approved in advance by the DIRAUX. An approved plan is acceptably applicable for subsequent meetings of the same population provided there are no significant changes from one meeting to the next (e.g., a division meeting plan submitted and approved once is acceptable and applicable for all subsequent division meetings if the meetings are held in the same location/venue). Applicable risk-vs-gain and mission need criteria must be met.

G. Travel

1. Official travel is authorized for all Auxiliarists regardless of vaccination status. Auxiliarists must continually check the CDC COVID-19 Community Level for the areas they will be traveling to and from. In addition, Auxiliarists must review CDC's travel notices at: [Travelers' Health | CDC](#) and [Domestic Travel During COVID-19 | CDC](#)

2. Unofficial Travel. All Auxiliarists should follow Department of State (DOS) and CDC guidelines when it comes to domestic or foreign travel. This includes personnel who live with someone that is subject to self-monitoring due to travel or exposure history (as verified by a positive COVID-19 test). Auxiliarists should continually check the CDC COVID-19 Community Level for the areas they will be traveling to and from.

DOS travel advisories can be found at: [COVID-19 Country Specific Information \(state.gov\)](#) & [COVID-19 Travel Information \(state.gov\)](#), and CDC travel notices can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

Enclosures: (1) Auxiliary RBS Specific Risk Assessment
(2) Control Bands and Corresponding Risk Control Options
(3) Safety & Env Health Bulletin – COVID-19 – Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirator Options

Auxiliary RBS Specific Risk Assessment

(These are recommended examples and may be changed by the DIRAUX, OIA, or unit as needed)

Enclosure 1

Auxiliary – RBS			
Note: Since COVID-19 can be transmitted by symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, the T (Exposure Time) and I (Exposure Intensity) levels <i>assume</i> the presence of a pandemic contagion.			
Population at Risk		Risk Control Recommendations	
Population	<u>Public Education Courses</u>	Risk Level	Control Band
Environment	Classroom	R-1: Low transmissibility; low clinical severity	
Work Description	Teaching Boating Safety classes to the public	R-2: Moderate transmissibility; low to moderate clinical severity (i.e., COVID-19)	<u>B*</u>
Exposure	T-4: Settings with frequent and regular contact for extended durations	R-3: Low transmissibility; high clinical severity	
Intensity	I-2: Contact with members of the public in ventilated room; no close person-to-person contact	R-4: High transmissibility; high clinical severity	

*Modified Control Band B: For classroom setting only. All students must wear masks. If social distance and proper sanitization can be maintained and all students are wearing masks, instructors may wear safety glasses, face shields, or prescription glasses.

Auxiliary – RBS			
Note: Since COVID-19 can be transmitted by symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, the T and I levels <i>assume</i> the presence of a pandemic contagion.			
Population at Risk		Risk Control Recommendations	
Population	<u>Vessel Safety Checks – Open Vessel (includes paddlecraft)</u>	Risk Level	Control Band
Environment	Open vessel: no enclosed spaces to walk in.	R-1: Low transmissibility; low clinical severity	
Work Description	Boarding recreational vessels to conduct safety checks	R-2: Moderate transmissibility; low to moderate clinical severity (i.e., COVID-19)	<u>A</u> (Or a <u>Modified B</u> , depending on the situation)
Exposure	T-2: Settings with regular contact for brief durations	R-3: Low transmissibility; high clinical severity	
Intensity	I-1: Casual <i>walk-by</i> contact with members of the public, such as mall or shopping center	R-4: High transmissibility; high clinical severity	

Auxiliary RBS Specific Risk Assessment

(These are recommended examples and may be changed by the DIRAUX, OIA, or unit as needed)

Enclosure 1

Auxiliary – RBS			
Note: Since COVID-19 can be transmitted by symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, the T and I levels <i>assume</i> the presence of a pandemic contagion.			
Population at Risk		Risk Control Recommendations	
Population	<u>Vessel Safety Checks – Enclosed Vessel</u> (Could also apply to OUPV and CFV Exams in consultation with OIA)	Risk Level	Control Band
Environment	Enclosed vessel: there are enclosed spaces to walk in.	R-1: Low transmissibility; low clinical severity	
Work Description	Boarding recreational vessels to conduct safety checks	R-2: Moderate transmissibility; low to moderate clinical severity (i.e., COVID-19)	<u>B**</u>
Exposure	T-2: Settings with regular contact for brief durations	R-3: Low transmissibility; high clinical severity	
Intensity	I-2: Contact with members of the public in ventilated room; no close person-to-person contact	R-4: High transmissibility; high clinical severity	

**Safety glasses with side protection may be used in lieu of goggles.

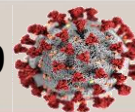
Auxiliary – RBS			
Note: Since COVID-19 can be transmitted by symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, the T and I levels <i>assume</i> the presence of a pandemic contagion.			
Population at Risk		Risk Control Recommendations	
Population	<u>Program Visits</u>	Risk Level	Control Band
Environment	Store	R-1: Low transmissibility; low clinical severity	
Work Description	Conduct visit with local boating store for RBS education	R-2: Moderate transmissibility; low to moderate clinical severity (i.e., COVID-19)	<u>A</u>
Exposure	T-2: Settings with regular contact for brief durations	R-3: Low transmissibility; high clinical severity	
Intensity	I-1: Casual <i>walk-by</i> contact with members of the public, such as mall or shopping center	R-4: High transmissibility; high clinical severity	

Control Options			
Control Band	Administrative	Engineering/ Environmental	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing/sanitizing and control coughing • Social Isolation of > 6ft • Signs to remind/alert of hazard • Sanitize surfaces and high touch point instruments • Utilize sick-leave option (stay home if ill) • Early identification and isolation of symptomatic persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing / sanitizer stations • Provide face cover/face mask for all persons • Physical barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face covering/mask* (when practicable but not intended for operational missions) <p>* Face coverings/masks aim to prevent virus transmission from wearer to others. While they provide some protection to the wearer, design & wear/fit varies substantially and therefore cannot be considered PPE.</p>
B	<p>Band A Options, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control people movement to minimize contact • Stagger mealtimes to reduce size of gatherings 	<p>Band A Options, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use dilution ventilation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks • Nitrile gloves • Goggles • Coveralls (ODUs with sleeves down are acceptable) • Voluntary use of N95 respirators w/o exhaust valve
C	<p>Band B Options, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically secure/restrain people to reduce movement • Stagger mealtimes to reduce size of gatherings 	<p>Band B Options, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use exhaust ventilation • Use UVGI, HEPA filtration 	<p>Band B Options* while: Replacing face mask with N95 respirator w/o exhaust valve*</p> <p>*As permissible with required CG safety equipment and/or duty-specific gear. Consult HSWL and relevant CG program office.</p>
D	<p>Band C Options</p>	<p>Band C Options, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of airborne infection isolation room 	<p>Band C Options while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing N95 respirators with higher level of respiratory protection such as CBRN gear • Specialized PPE equipment as designated in PLANORD Refs (l) and (r).
E	Seek Expert Advice		



Mask & Respirator Options

COVID-19



SAFETY & ENV HEALTH BULLETIN

Scope: Respirators are used to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Table 1 provides respiratory protection examples for each Control Band in alignment with the COVID-19 Planning Order. *Respirators and masks are not substitutes for physical separation, hand hygiene, and disinfection.*

Table 1. Descriptions of Respiratory Protection Options by Control Band

Category	Description	Control Bands	Examples with Images
<p>Masks</p>	<p>Face masks, specifically tightly woven, multi-layer cloth masks (at least two layers) with no exhalation valves or vents, are a simple barrier to help prevent your respiratory droplets from reaching others ("source control") and reduces the wearer's exposure to other's droplets ("filtration for personal protection"). Review CDC guidance to select your mask and optimize your protection. Select masks with these characteristics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tightly woven, multi-layered, breathable material. ✓ Fits snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps. ✓ Completely covers the nose and mouth at all times. ✓ Ensure the outer cloth mask clamps the sides of a surgical-style mask to your face if double masking. × No exhalation valves that allow unfiltered air to be freely exhaled. × No face shields worn without a face mask. <p>NOTE: IAW ALCOAST 285/21, in areas of high or substantial transmission, all personnel, on-site Contractors, and visitors must wear a mask inside USCG operated buildings, regardless of vaccination status or the ability to maintain social distancing. In areas of low or moderate transmission, vaccinated individuals (> 2 weeks beyond final dose) are not required to wear a mask, but unvaccinated members are. See CDC levels of Community Transmission.</p>	<p>A & B</p>	
<p>Filtering Facepiece Respirator (FFR)</p>	<p>FFRs are a type of respirator that removes particles from air breathed through it and filters out at least 95% (i.e., N95) of very small particles including bacteria and viruses. Well-fitting FFRs offer more protection than cloth or disposable surgical masks. FFRs with exhalation valves do not prevent the COVID-19 spread. If an FFR with exhalation valve is the only choice, cover the valve with a mask that doesn't interfere with FFR fit.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N95 3M N95 R95</p>
<p>Elastomeric Air Purifying Respirator (APR)</p>	<p>Elastomeric APRs are respirators (powered or non-powered) designed to provide a higher level of respiratory protection and cover the full-face (eyes, nose & mouth) or half-face (nose & mouth) with a tight seal. E-APRs must be equipped with appropriate cartridges designed to filter the specific contaminants. Other respirator options should be considered first. If an APR with an unfiltered exhalation valve is the only choice, install a NIOSH-approved adaptor or cover the valve with a face mask in way that doesn't interfere with APR fit.</p>	<p>D</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Full-Face Half-Face Powered</p>